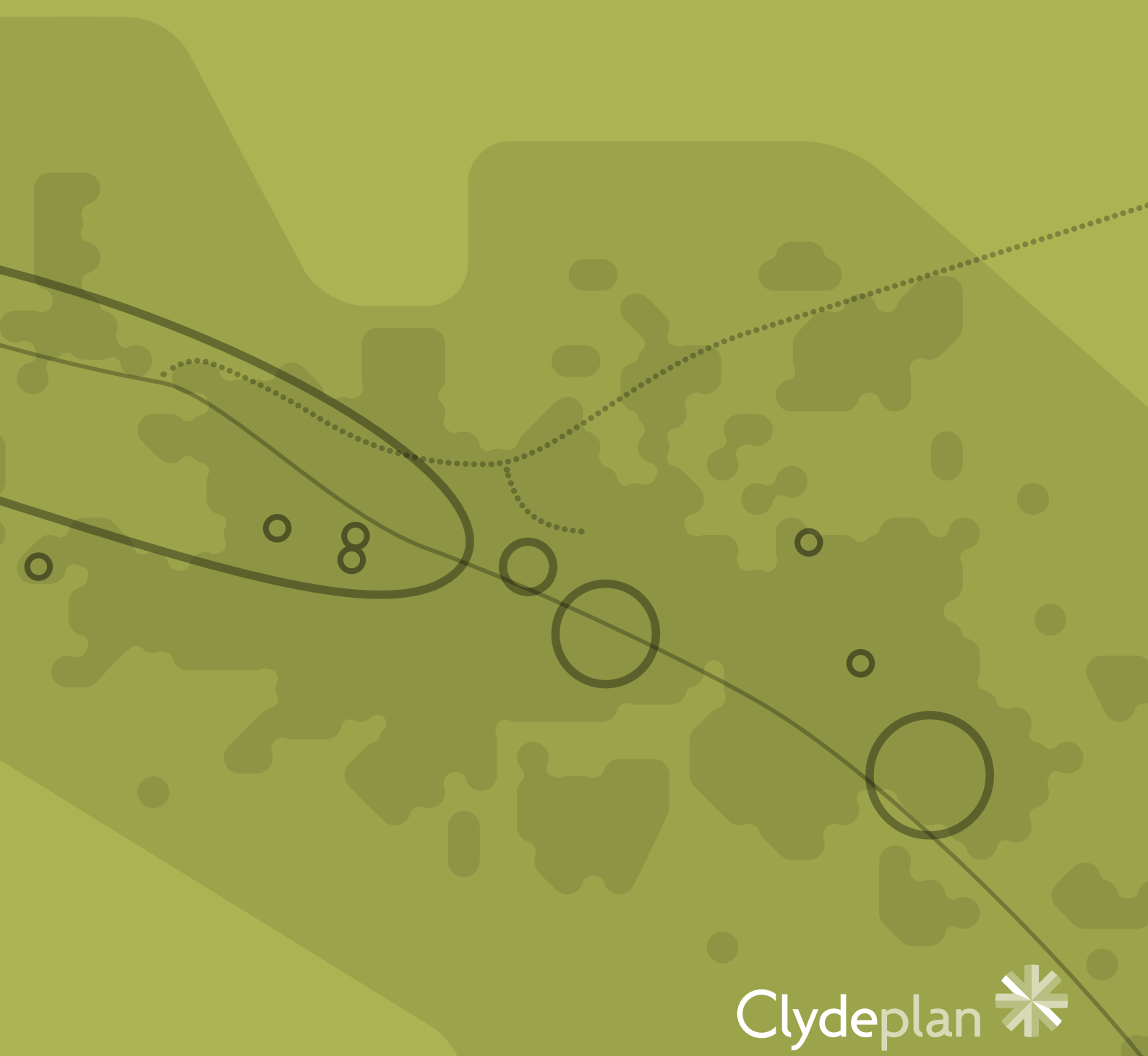


Strategic Development Plan

Proposed Plan

January 2016

Additional Information to Support Background Report 12
Forestry and Woodland Strategy Habitats Regulations
Appraisal Screening Report





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Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy

Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Screening Report
Prepared by LUC
July 2015

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Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy

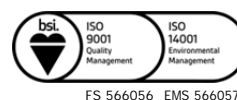
Habitats Regulations Appraisal

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1 Introduction

Purpose and scope

- 1.1 The Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy is intended to set out a long-term spatial and policy framework that will broadly define the scope, nature and extent of woodland expansion across the Glasgow and Clyde Valley city-region. It will also establish priorities for management of new and existing woodland assets. The time horizon and lifespan of the Strategy covers the period from 2015 to 2035 – and incorporates 4/5-yearly reviews (aligned with the review process for the Strategic Development Plan).
- 1.2 The Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy is subject to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process to enable the competent authority to ascertain whether there are any adverse effects on the integrity of Natura sites.
- 1.3 The context of this report has been informed by the Scottish Government's Planning Circular 6/2013 Development Planning¹ (which replaces Circular 1/2009 and Appendix I: The Habitats Regulations) and the Scottish Natural Heritage's Guidance on Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans².

Legislation and Regulations

- 1.4 The Natura 2000 Network is a European-wide network of protected sites designated as either Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and developed under the European Commission 'Habitats Directive' (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the 'Birds Directive' (Directive 79/409/EEC).
- 1.5 SACs are strictly protected sites designated under the **Directive 92/43/EEC**³ (the 'Habitats Directive') and form a European network of important, high quality conservation sites which contribute to conserving 189 habitat types and 788 identified species.
- 1.6 SPAs are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of **Directive 2009/147/EC**⁴ (the 'Birds Directive') for rare and vulnerable birds (identified in Annex II of the Directive) and also for regularly occurring migratory species.
- 1.7 Ramsar sites are identified under the *International Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance*, and Scottish Ministers require these sites to be subject to the same protection as European sites. In Scotland, all Ramsar sites are also designated as either SPAs or SACs, i.e. Natura sites. Collectively, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites will be referred to as 'European sites' in this report.
- 1.8 Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan (or project) which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. Proposed or candidate European sites should also be given the same consideration.
- 1.9 The Habitats Directive applies a precautionary approach to developments potentially affecting SACs and SPAs. The interest features of the European sites must be maintained so as to avoid

¹ Scottish Government, 2013. *Planning Circular 6/2013 Development Planning*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

² Scottish Natural Heritage, 2012. *Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland*. [pdf] Available at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B1116296.pdf> [Accessed 08 April 2014].

³ EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC.

⁴ EC Council Directive 2009/147/EC.

deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of species. An appropriate assessment is required where there is a probability or a risk that a plan or project will have significant effects on a site. However, it is recognised that an assessment of a spatial plan is likely by its nature to be less specific and detailed than the assessment of an individual project. This procedure is applied in Scotland through **The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994**⁵ as amended⁶, and is known as the 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal' of plans.

- 1.10 The Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy can only be adopted if it can be ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

Plan context

- 1.11 The Strategy will form part of the evidence base for the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and is intended to be adopted as policy by the eight Glasgow and Clyde Valley local authorities (precise status will be determined by the local authorities). In accordance with **Planning Circular 6/2013 Development Planning**, supplementary planning guidance is subject to HRA consideration.
- 1.12 It is anticipated that the local authorities will make use of the Strategy in responding to consultations on woodland creation proposals, in assessing development proposals that could affect woodland and in developing locally-focussed action plans for woodland expansion and management. It is also intended to assist Forestry Commission Scotland in assessing applications for grant support for woodland creation and management.

The HRA process

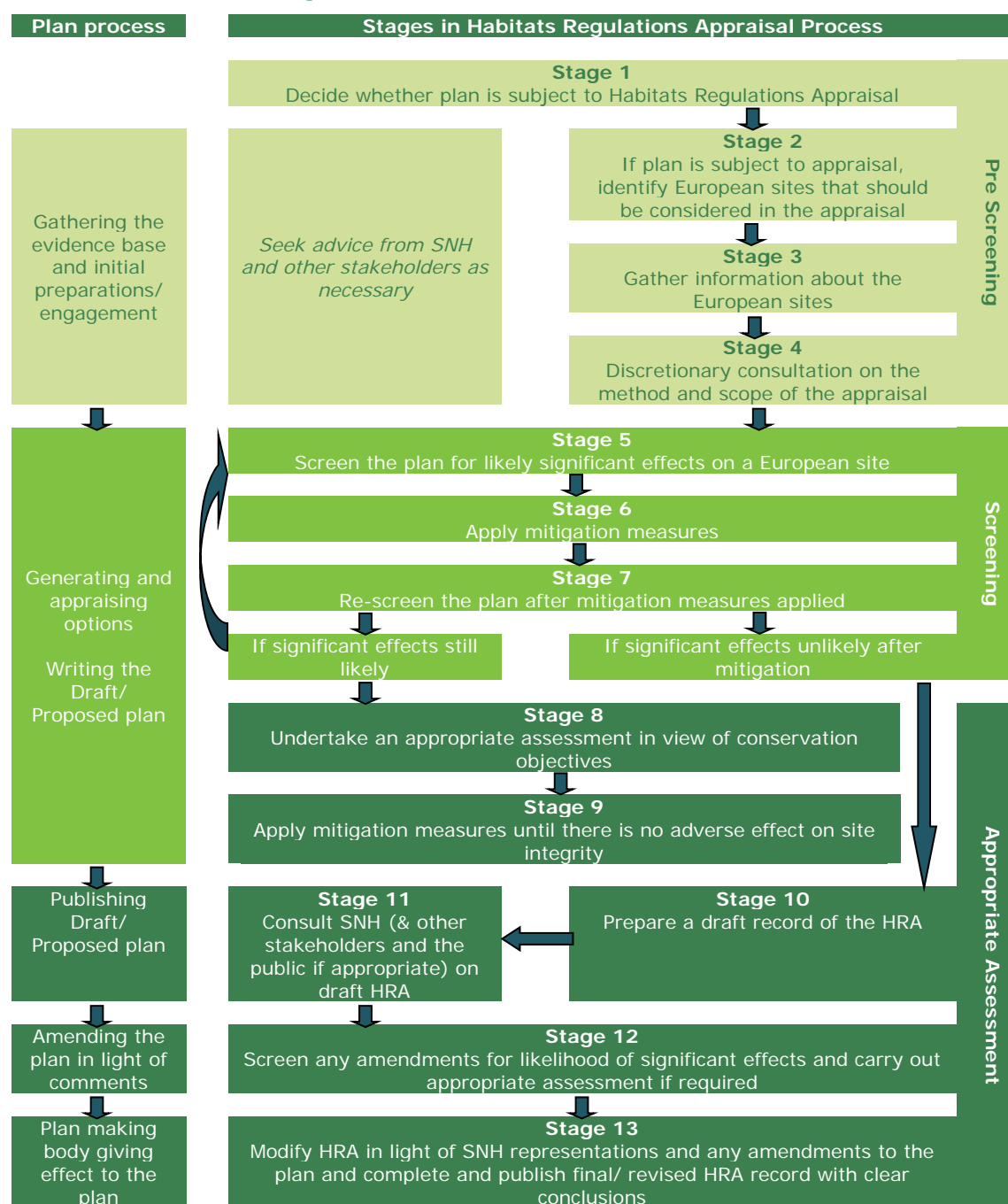
- 1.13 The key stages to the Habitat Regulations Appraisal process are outlined in the Scottish Natural Heritage's Guidance on Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans⁷ and are illustrated in Figure 1.1.

⁵ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.

⁶ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

⁷ Scottish Natural Heritage, 2012. *Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland*. [pdf] Available at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B1116296.pdf> [Accessed 08 April 2014].

Figure 1.1 Key stages of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal Process for Plans (adapted from David Tyldesley and Associates (2010) *Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan-making bodies in Scotland*)



2 Methodology

- 2.1 This report works through the pre-screening steps and the screening steps of the HRA process (as detailed in Appendix 1).
- 2.2 The following Pre Screening steps have been undertaken:
- Identification of Natura sites;
 - Identification of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the Natura sites;
 - Identification of potential impacts on the qualifying interests and conservation objectives resulting from forestry and woodland activities (e.g. habitat loss, hydrological impacts, disturbance from recreation).

Identification of sites

- 2.3 A 20km radius around the Strategy Study Area was taken as an initial appropriate search area. 20km is taken as the search area based on SNH guidance for assessing connectivity with SPAs⁸.
- 2.4 This study area was reviewed in light of the likely nature of impacts from woodland and forestry planting, which considered the impacts would occur at the location of planting or within the area immediately around the planting, or where adjacent to watercourses, impacts could arise downstream. The search for Natura sites therefore considered all sites within with Study Area of the Strategy and any sites located along watercourses flowing from the Study Area, to a distance of 20km downstream.

Identification of sensitivities

- 2.5 JNCC data sheets⁹ have been reviewed to identify existing pressures on the Natura sites and the sensitivities based on their qualifying features. Based on professional judgement and data sheets a list of standard sensitivities has been produced:
- Extent of habitat;
 - Disturbance to roosting or foraging sites;
 - Extent of foraging areas;
 - Woodland encroachment (growth of trees as a result of seed dispersal);
 - Water quality and quantity.

Identification of impacts

- 2.6 The impacts of forestry activity on Natura sites will vary from site to site depending on the existing pressures which sites are under.
- 2.7 Potential impacts on the Natura sites have been identified by an ecologist, following a review of the sites qualifying features and conservation objectives, based on typical forestry and woodland operations. Impacts may occur over large distances, particularly in relation to hydrological impacts. We have used GIS information on river catchments to inform the identification of associations between areas which may be subject to woodland and forestry activity and hydrological impacts on Natura sites.

Screening steps

- 2.8 The following Screening steps have been undertaken:

⁸ <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A675474.pdf> - SNH Guidance on Assessing Connectivity with SPA March 2012

⁹ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4>

- Screen out general policy statements;
- Screen out projects referred to but not proposed by the plan;
- Screen out policies or proposals with no ecological pathway to Natura sites;
- Evaluate the scale of impact of policies on Natura sites;
- Undertake in-combination assessment of minor effects of policies;
- Identify recommendations for mitigation measures.

- 2.9 When evaluating the scale of impact a judgement of likely significant effect is made in relation to the features for which the European site is designated and the sites conservation objectives. A significant effect is taken as any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of the Strategy that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects. An impact is determined to be significant when it's likely to affect the integrity of the designated site. The integrity of such a site is defined as '...the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.'¹⁰.
- 2.10 The assessment of likely significant effects is largely based on the conservation objectives of the European site. If any plan or project causes the cited interest features of a European site to fall into unfavourable condition they can be considered to have had a significant adverse effect upon the Natura site. Plans or projects can adversely affect a Nature site by:
- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
 - Interrupting progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
 - Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site; and
 - Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.
- 2.11 As the Strategy is a high level document and does not provide a detailed account of any planting that may arise from the Strategy, professional judgement has been used to determine likely significance. Where it cannot be determined with certainty that the Strategy will not lead to a significant effect the precautionary principle is applied.

¹⁰ Part I, Section B, Paragraph 20 of *ODPM Circular 06/2005* accompanying *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*

3 Baseline information

European sites potentially affected

3.1 The European sites located within the Clydeplan area are set out in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: European sites within the Clydeplan area

Designation	Site Name	Area within GCV city-region (hectares)
Special Protection Area	Black Cart	56.0
	Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands	4,455.8
	Renfrewshire Heights	5,718.7
	Slamannan Plateau	510.7
SPA and Ramsar	Inner Clyde	998.4 / 989.4
Special Area of Conservation	Black Loch Moss	105.6
	Braehead Moss	122.8
	Clyde Valley Woods	432.9
	Coalburn Moss	224.5
	Craigengar	0.4
	Cranley Moss	101.6
	North Shotts Moss	53.8
	Red Moss	75.9
	Waukenwae Moss	154.6
	West Fannyside Moss	33.8

3.2 The locations of these sites are depicted on Figure 3.1, and Table 3.2 provides further details of each site and its qualifying features. Table 3.2 also identifies the potential impacts of forestry and woodland on these sites.

3.3 In identifying sites that should be considered in the appraisal, consideration was also given to European sites outside the Glasgow and Clyde Valley city-region that could be affected by woodland expansion and/or forestry operations within the region. Sites in adjacent local authority areas that may be affected are:

- Craigengar SAC (cross-boundary): only a very small area within South Lanarkshire local authority area – majority of the site lies within West Lothian;
- River Tweed SAC;
- Blawhorn Moss SAC;
- Loch Lomond SPA and Ramsar site;
- Westwater SPA and Ramsar site;
- Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA (cross-boundary);
- Renfrewshire Heights SPA (cross-boundary);
- Slamannan Plateau SPA (cross-boundary);
- Inner Clyde SPA and Ramsar site (cross-boundary).

- 3.4 Table 3.3 provides further details of each site, its qualifying features and conservation objectives and determines whether there is the potential for interaction between the designated site and forestry activities in the Clydeplan area.

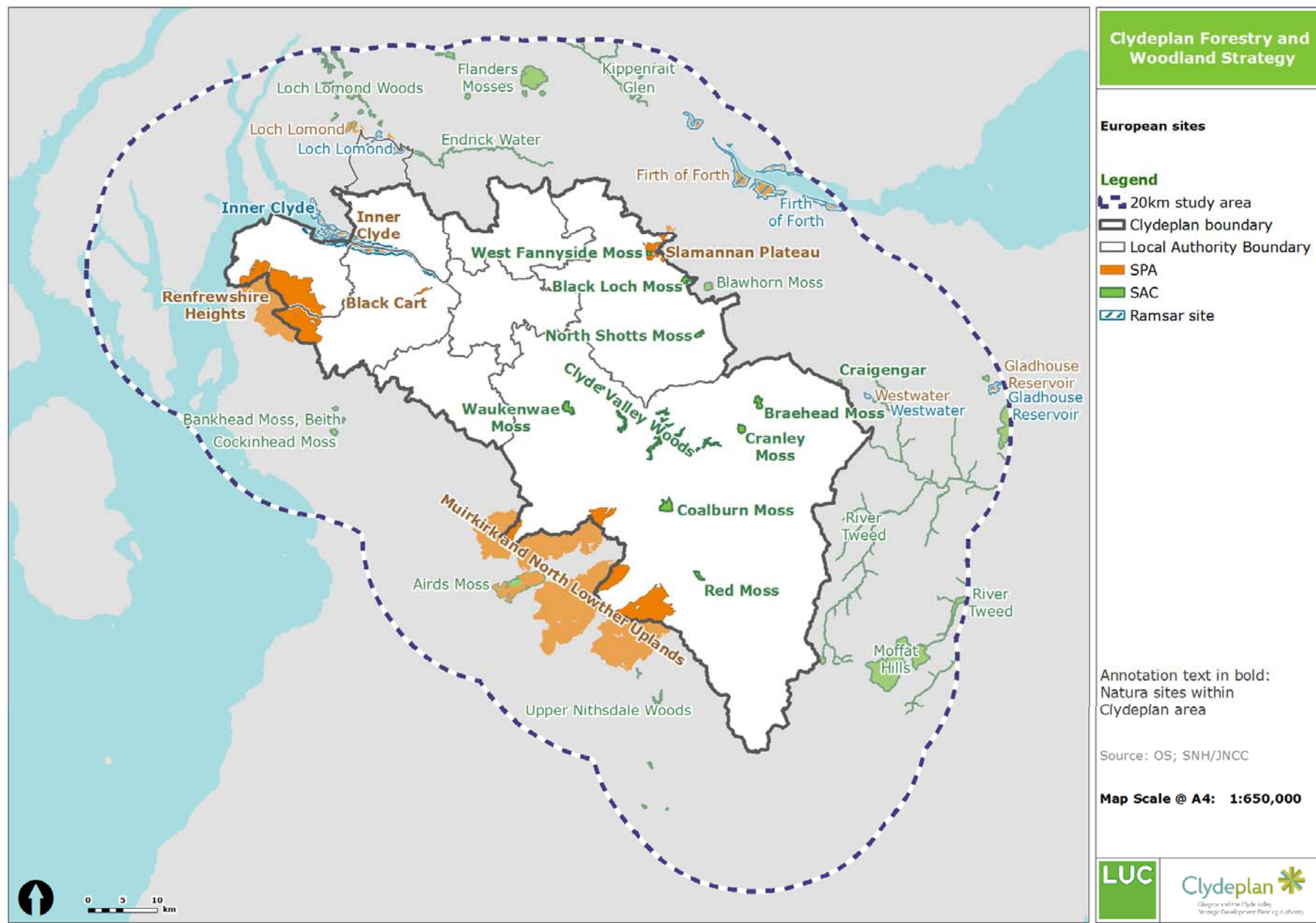


Figure 3.1: Map of European sites within the Clydeplan area, and a 20km buffer

Table 3.2 European Sites within the Clydeplan area potentially affected by the Strategy (including cross-boundary sites – indicated by*)

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) in Clydeplan area / <i>proportion of site total</i>		Qualifying Interests (Common Names)	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
Special Protection Areas							
Black Cart	SPA	56.0	100%	Whooper swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ; non-breeding	Favourable Declining (2009)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Population of the species as a viable component of the siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying interest is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extent of foraging areas;Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitat loss;Access disturbance;Forestry operations disturbance. <p>Likely significant effect</p> <p><i>Effects most likely to relate to potential loss of open floodplain and improved grassland habitat adjacent to the Black Cart Water.</i></p>
Inner Clyde*	SPA	988.4	54%	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> ; non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (2007)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Population of the species as a viable component of the siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying species is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extent of foraging areas;Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>As the site consists almost entirely of tidal mudflats, woodland expansion in this location would be impossible.</p> <p>This site can be excluded from further stages of the HRA process.</p>
Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands*	SPA	4,455.8	17%	Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ; breeding	Unfavourable Declining (2008)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Population of the species as a viable component of the siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying interest is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extent of foraging areas;Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitat loss;Access disturbance;Forestry operations disturbance. <p>Likely significant effect</p> <p><i>Effects most likely to relate to loss of foraging habitat and disturbance as a consequence of forestry operations or improved access through upgraded provision of forest roads and tracks</i></p>
				Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> ; breeding	Favourable Maintained (1998)		
				Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ; breeding	Unfavourable No change (2004)		
				Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; breeding	Favourable Maintained (2004)		
				Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> ; breeding	Unfavourable No Change (2009)		
				Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ; non-breeding	Unfavourable Declining (2004)		

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) in Clydeplan area / <i>proportion of site total</i>		Qualifying Interests (Common Names)	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
Renfrewshire Heights*	SPA	5,718.7	64%	Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ; breeding	Unfavourable Declining (2010)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying interest is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of foraging areas; Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Access disturbance; Forestry operations disturbance. <p>Likely significant effect</p> <p><i>Effects most likely to relate to loss of foraging habitat and disturbance as a consequence of forestry operations or improved access through upgraded provision of forest roads and tracks</i></p>
Slamannan Plateau*	SPA	510.7	86%	Taiga bean good <i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i> ; non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (2011)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying species is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of foraging areas; Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Access disturbance; Forestry operations disturbance. <p>Likely significant effect.</p> <p><i>Effects most likely to be in relation to goose grazing habitat in core foraging areas – albeit that the vast majority of this resource lies within Falkirk Council area. Potential for effects in terms of loss or disturbance to roost sites as a consequence of forest operations.</i></p>
Special Areas of Conservation							
Black Loch Moss	SAC	105.6	98%	Active raised bog	Unfavourable No Change (2008)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying</p>

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) in Clydeplan area / <i>proportion of site total</i>		Qualifying Interests (Common Names)	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
				Degraded raised bog	Unfavourable No Change (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Black Loch Moss. <p>Likely significant effect.</p>
Braehead Moss	SAC	122.8	100%	Active raised bog	Unfavourable Recovering (2003)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Braehead Moss. <p>Likely significant effect.</p>
				Degraded raised bog	Favourable Recovering (2012)		
Clyde Valley Woods	SAC	432.9	100%	Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Favourable Maintained (2002)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of qualifying habitat Structure and function of the habitat <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that could affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Degradation of connectivity through inappropriate planting <p>Likely significant effect</p>
Coalburn Moss	SAC	224.5	100%	Active raised bog	Favourable Maintained (2012)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Coalburn Moss.
				Degraded raised bog	Unfavourable Recovering (2012)		

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) in Clydeplan area / proportion of site total		Qualifying Interests (Common Names)	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
							Likely significant effect.
Craigengar	SAC	0.4	1.0%	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable Declining (2013)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of qualifying habitat Structure and function of the habitat <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that could affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Degradation of habitat connectivity through inappropriate planting <p>Given the very small proportion of the SAC lying within the Clydeplan area (1%), it is highly unlikely that the FWS could give rise to significant effects.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. This SAC can be excluded from further consideration.</p>
				Dry heaths	Unfavourable No Change (2013)		
				Marsh saxifrage <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	Unfavourable No Change (2007)		
Cranley Moss	SAC	101.6	100%	Active raised bog	Unfavourable No Change (2014)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Cranley Moss. <p>Likely significant effect.</p>
				Degraded raised bog	Unfavourable Recovering (2002)		
North Shotts Moss	SAC	53.8	100%	Active raised bog	Favourable Maintained (2013)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same
				Degraded raised bog	Unfavourable No Change (2013)		

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) in Clydeplan area / <i>proportion of site total</i>		Qualifying Interests (Common Names)	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	hydrological unit as North Shotts Moss. Likely significant effect.
Red Moss	SAC	75.9	100%	Active raised bog	Unfavourable Recovering (2009)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Red Moss. Likely significant effect.
Waukenwae Moss	SAC	154.6	100%	Active raised bog	Favourable Recovered (2011)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Waukenwae Moss. Likely significant effect.
				Degraded raised bog	Unfavourable Recovering (2011)		
West Fannyside Moss	SAC	33.8	100%	Blanket bog	Favourable Maintained (2002)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as West Fannyside Moss. Likely significant effect.
Ramsar sites							

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) in Clydeplan area / proportion of site total		Qualifying Interests (Common Names)	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
Inner Clyde	Ramsar	989.4	54%	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> ; non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (2007)	-	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying species is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of foraging areas; Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>As the site consists almost entirely of tidal mudflats, woodland expansion in this location would be impossible.</p> <p>This site can be excluded from further stages of the HRA process.</p>

Table 3.3: European sites within 20km potentially affected by the Strategy

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) within GCV and 20km buffer / <i>proportion of site total</i>		Qualifying Interests (Common Names) [For SACs: †=Annex II species that are primary reason for selection]	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
Special Protection Areas							
Loch Lomond	SPA	509.7	100%	Capercaillie <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ; breeding	Unfavourable Declining (2013)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Population of the species as a viable component of the siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying species is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extent of foraging areas;Disturbance at feeding (both interests) and breeding sites (Capercaillie only). <p>It would be impossible for the Strategy to have any direct effect on Capercaillie habitat or the species itself.</p> <p>Similarly, woodland expansion within the Clydeplan city-region is judged to be very unlikely to affect favoured white-fronted goose foraging habitat as this is strongly concentrated on the Endrick Marshes – outside the Strategy area.</p> <p>This site can be excluded from further stages of the HRA process.</p>
				Greenland white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ; non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (2009)		
Westwater	SPA	49.8	100%	Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ; non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (2007)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Population of the species as a viable component of the siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying species is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extent of foraging areas;Disturbance at feeding sites <p>Westwater Reservoir, located on the southern edge of the Pentland Hills is an important overwintering location for pink-footed goose. However, the likely concentration of foraging activity in the agricultural areas around West Linton and northeast towards the Lothian plain, means that woodland expansion within the Clydeplan area would be unlikely to have any significant effect on the SPA population.</p>
				(Waterfowl assemblage; non-breeding)	Favourable Maintained (2007)		

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) within GCV and 20km buffer / <i>proportion of site total</i>		Qualifying Interests (Common Names) [For SACs: †=Annex II species that are primary reason for selection]	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
							This site can be excluded from further stages of the HRA process.
Special Areas of Conservation							
River Tweed	SAC	766.2	23%	River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	Unfavourable No Change (2004)	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying species and habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality and quantity draining into the Tweed catchment. Disturbance to otter feeding and resting sites. <p>Although the entire Tweed river system, including its tributaries and the immediate catchment of its source, is designated and lies in close proximity to the Clydeplan boundary, the Tweed catchment itself is wholly outside the Strategy area. The local authority boundary between South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders follows the watershed between the Clyde and the Tweed catchments – the principal east-west watershed in southern Scotland. It is therefore very unlikely that woodland expansion in the Clydeplan area would have any effect on the quality or quantity of water entering the Tweed river system.</p> <p>Similarly, it is unlikely that forest operations would occur in such close proximity to the designated area that disturbance to otter could occur.</p> <p>This site can be excluded from further stages of the HRA process.</p>
				Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Unfavourable No Change (2004)		
				Brook lamprey <i>Lempetra planeri</i>	Unfavourable No Change (2004)		
				Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> †	Unfavourable Recovering (2004)		
				Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> †	Favourable Maintained (2003)		
				Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot	Unfavourable No Change (2004)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	
Blawhorn Moss	SAC	108.9	100%	Active raised bog	Unfavourable Recovering (2008)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. <p>Blawhorn Moss, in West Lothian, is surrounded on three sides (N, W & S) by planted conifer forest. Similarly, the site lies at a greater elevation than the adjacent (1.5km at closest point) portion of the Clydeplan area – meaning that the site and any area likely to be affected by planting under this strategy are hydrologically separate. This fact is underlined by the</p>
				Degraded raised bog	Unfavourable Recovering (2008)		

Site name	Designation	Area (ha) within GCV and 20km buffer / <i>proportion of site total</i>		Qualifying Interests (Common Names) [For SACs: †=Annex II species that are primary reason for selection]	Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Potential impacts of forestry and woodland activities
							<p>presence of several small, unnamed watercourses, which drain into the Barbachlaw Burn, that follow the lowest contours between the Clydeplan area and the site.</p> <p>No hydrological effects from new woodland in the Clydeplan area could therefore occur.</p> <p>This site can be excluded from further stages of the HRA process.</p>

4 Screening process

Introduction

- 4.1 The Scottish Government requires the responsible authority (i.e. Clydeplan Strategic Development Planning Authority) to determine which, if any, elements of the plan would have a likely significant effect on any interest/feature of a European site and therefore, would require an appropriate assessment.

Screening process

- 4.2 All aspects of the Strategy have been screened for potential likely significant effects on European sites, i.e. the aims, objectives, actions, and maps (see **Table 4.2**). Any effect that could undermine the conservation objectives is considered a significant effect. The likelihood of such effects occurring was assessed on a case by case basis, taking into account the precautionary principle and the specific characteristics and environmental conditions of the site concerned.
- 4.3 The screening process followed these steps:
- General policy statements, including general criteria-based policies, were screened out of the appraisal as they are unlikely to have a significant effect on a European site due to their strategic nature.
 - Projects referred to, but not proposed or underpinned by the Strategy, were screened out as it was assumed that appraisals have already been undertaken by project originators / regulators.
 - Aims/objectives/actions that were not likely to have a significant effect on a European site were screened out of the appraisal, e.g. aspects of the Strategy that are intended to protect the environment.
- 4.4 The screening process has also considered the potential impact the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy may have on European sites with specific regard to woodland expansion. The Strategy classifies areas for woodland expansion as preferred, sensitive, potential, existing, urban, and unsuitable. Throughout the spatial analysis process, all European sites have been placed within the 'sensitive' category.

Table 4.1: Land categorisation

Land Category	Description
Built-up	Settlements, within which the opportunities for woodland creation are often too small to map effectively at a strategic scale.
Existing woodland	Land currently under woodland of all types.
Preferred	<p>Land with no strategic constraints, which offers the greatest scope to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, and hence, to deliver on a very wide range of objectives.</p> <p>Within preferred areas sensitivities are, in general, likely to be limited, and it should be possible to address any particular site specific issues within well-designed proposals that meet the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines.</p> <p>Future woodland expansion is therefore likely to be focused on preferred areas.</p>
Potential	<p>Land which offers considerable potential to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, but where at least one significant sensitivity exists.</p> <p>The extent to which specific proposals in potential areas will be permissible will depend</p>

Land Category	Description
	on how well sensitivities can be addressed within the proposals. The design of schemes in such areas will require careful, site-specific consideration to ensure they are of an appropriate type and scale to be successfully accommodated.
Sensitive	Land on which, due to a combination of sensitivities, there is limited scope to accommodate further woodland expansion. Limited woodland expansion is only likely to be possible within sensitive areas where it is of a scale and character which can be accommodated without significant negative impacts and/or where it would positively enhance the features of interest locally.
Unsuitable	Land physically unsuitable for the growth or management of trees. For completeness, this includes areas of inland open water.

4.5 The Strategy explicitly states that:

- The maps provide an indication of areas best suited to different woodland types, they do not indicate where change will occur or imply the amount of change that is appropriate;
- The maps are necessarily indicative and do not mean that areas not identified as 'preferred' are incapable of woodland creation or management. All proposals for woodland expansion will require further consideration of site-specific issues – including Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal as required by the competent authorities.
- All forestry proposals likely to have a significant effect on an existing or potential SPA, SAC, or Ramsar site, including proposals outside the designated area, will require an HRA to ascertain that the proposal does not adversely affect the integrity of the site, or to put appropriate mitigation measures in place.

4.6 Therefore, the procedure proposed by the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy will ensure that all potential likely significant effects on European sites will be identified at the application stage.

Screening the policy content of the FWS

4.7 Table 4.2 below sets out the screening process for the aims, objectives and priorities of the FWS.

Table 4.2: Screening process - aims, objectives, priorities

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
Expanding Clydeplan's woodland resource and improving its management	Encourage the creation of well-designed woodland of an appropriate nature, scale and composition to deliver the Strategy's priorities.	EM 1.1	Support the delivery of approximately 6000ha of new woodlands over the 20-year lifespan of the Strategy.	<p>The statement makes a provision for change but is very general. Therefore it is not known where, when or how the aspect of the plan may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected.</p> <p>However as this statement is intended to result in woodland expansion, there may be a Likely significant effect.</p> <p>The general locations identified in the Strategy as preferred and potential areas for woodland planting have been assessed in reference to Natura sites, details are provided in Table 4.3.</p>
		EM 1.2	Promote a strong multi-benefit approach to woodland planning, design and management in the Clydeplan area.	
		EM 1.3	Ensure that proposals for woodland creation support the aims and objectives of the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy.	
	Promote improved management of the Clydeplan area's woodland resource.	EM 2.1	Promote restructuring of existing softwood forests to contribute to improved economic, social and environmental values.	General policy statements related to improving management of existing resources rather than creating new woodlands with potential for LSE.
		EM 2.2	Continue to promote opportunities to bring woodlands into positive management, prioritising assets close to where people live and where they can make an enhanced contribution to the character, quality and attractiveness of new and existing places.	
		EM 2.3	Highlight the potential economic returns of improved woodland management as a means of driving investment in existing resources.	
		EM 2.4	Promote the adoption of Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems / Continuous Cover management approaches on suitable sites to help improve climate resilience, stand dynamics, timber values and contribution to landscape and biodiversity values.	
	Promote high standards of woodland design in new and existing woodlands.	EM 3.1	Ensuring that proposals for woodland creation are designed to optimise the delivery of multiple benefits and make a positive contribution to local landscapes.	General policy statement.
		EM 3.2	Encourage land managers and their Agents to engage and consult widely in the development and delivery of forest plans and planting proposals.	
		EM 3.3	Highlight the importance of good design in helping to unlock the potential for woodland expansion in areas of more	

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
			sensitive landscape.	
	Make a sustainable contribution to the delivery of national woodland expansion targets.	EM 4.1	Ensuring that the carbon sequestration potential of woodland is optimised through high quality design and management.	General policy statement; reliant on the first objective for implementation.
		EM 4.2	Ensuring that woodlands established principally for carbon sequestration meet the requirements of UKFS, and contribute to the objectives of the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy.	
		EM 4.3	Promoting the value of Woodland Carbon Code accreditation for land managers seeking to participate in carbon sequestration projects.	
		EM 4.4	Collecting data and monitoring the contribution of woodlands in Clydeplan to Scotland's emissions reduction targets.	
Building and supporting the forest and woodland economy	Creating an environment for investment		<i>Enhancing economic investment locations</i>	Policy / priorities make the provision for change, but at a high level and are not spatially specific. As new planting under these priorities would likely accompany development, project-level HRA would be required for any schemes where the potential for LSE is identified.
		EC 1.1	Adopt a strategic approach to woodland planning, establishment and management designed to improve the environmental quality and setting of economic investment locations within the wider Green Network	
		EC 1.2	Encourage a sensitive approach to existing trees and woodland in and around development sites and supporting their retention, enhancement and expansion wherever possible	
		EC 1.3	Promote the bold use of new woodland planting to create to high quality landscape structure for new development, whilst contributing to habitat connectivity, access and recreation opportunities, shelter and sustainable drainage and creating links with surrounding communities	
		EC 1.4	Encourage imaginative use of trees along access routes, in public greenspaces, civic spaces and private gardens, including 'retro-fitting' of green infrastructure where possible	
		EC 1.5	Promote advanced planting to create a high quality setting for development.	
			<i>Temporary planting on stalled sites</i>	
		EC 2.1	Encourage temporary planting to improve the environmental quality of vacant and derelict land and stalled development	General policy statement. No stalled or vacant and derelict sites in close proximity to Natura

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
			sites	interests, therefore unlikely to result in LSE.
		EC 2.2	Work with Clydeplan local authorities to identify opportunities for new woodland to contribute to 'Stalled Space' projects	
		EC 2.2	Promote short rotation forestry and management of existing resources as a source of wood fuel and an income stream for owners of land	
			Greening vacant, derelict and underused land	
		EC 3.1	Prioritise the creation of new woodlands, and the management of existing trees and woodland, to improve the environmental quality of vacant, derelict and underused land.	
			Enhancing transport corridors	
		EC 4.1	Support the creation of new woodlands along transport corridors where this provides screening and improves views.	General policy statement; woodland expansion in transport corridors very unlikely to affect Natura interests.
		EC 4.2	Prioritise the management of new and existing woodlands along transport corridors to maintain their contribution to the Green Network.	
			Promoting rural development and diversification	
		EC 5.1	Work with land managers to increase the contribution of woodland and forests to the rural economy, bringing benefits for the agricultural sector, creating alternative sources of rural income and supporting community ownership and social enterprise.	General policy statement; intended to improve the management of land and woodland to aid rural development. Unlikely to result in LSE in itself, but no spatial specificity in the text therefore potential for effects need to be assessed against the Strategy mapping (undertaken below).
		EC 5.2	Work with the agricultural sector to increase the management of existing woodlands and to identify opportunities to create new farm woods	
			Supporting tourism and recreation	
		EC 6.1	Increase the role of woodlands and forests in supporting tourism and recreation by developing and promoting new recreation opportunities;	Generally, woodlands and forests in the region are not part of Natura interests, with the exception of the Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC. However, visitor pressure on this site is carefully managed through the NNR management plan. Similarly, the majority of the site is inaccessible due to its steep topography.
		EC 6.2	Encourage the use of woodland to improve the setting of tourism sites;	
		EC 6.3	Prioritise the management of existing trees and woodland within historic landscapes and where they make a significant contribution to the quality of open spaces, civic spaces and	

Aim	Objective	Priority	Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
			country parks.
		EC 6.4	Building on the Commonwealth Games Legacy projects to enhance the recreation offer of woodlands, including in the Kilpatrick Hills
			Shaping new communities
		EC 7.1	Prioritise the role of existing and new woodlands in creating attractive and sustainable Community Growth Areas
		EC 7.2	Encourage the creation of high quality woodlands in and around new urban developments, connecting them with the surrounding countryside and existing urban greenspace to contribute to the wider Green Network
		EC 7.3	Wherever possible, carrying out new woodland planting and green infrastructure creation in advance of new development.
		EC 7.4	Encourage the management and maintenance of new and existing trees and woodlands in and around new development in the long term
		EC 7.5	Work with the Urban Regeneration Companies to identify opportunities for the creation of new urban woodlands as a component of the regeneration of strategic locations within the Region
		EC 7.6	Ensure that, where new woodland is created in parallel with development, appropriate mechanisms are put in place at the planning stage to secure long-term management and maintenance
			Policy statements linked to, and reliant on, the regional development priorities and locations set out in the Clydeplan Main Issues Report / SDP1. These locations have already been subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal as part of the Strategic Development Plan process. Woodland delivered in parallel to development would be subject to the requirement for planning permission and, where the potential for LSE is identified, project-level HRA will be required.
	Contributing to a healthy wood production and processing sector		Maintaining and increasing timber production
		EC 8.1	Continue to promote restructuring and redesign of existing softwood forests to improve timber quality in subsequent rotations, enhance landscape and biodiversity values and secure resilience to climate change
		EC 8.2	Work with land managers to prioritise restructuring of forests in more sensitive locations, particularly where restoration of peatland habitats is a realistic option
			Restructuring of plantation forests is likely to indirectly benefit Natura interests, particularly open ground raptors, where improved woodland design, including increased emphasis on transition habitats favoured by prey species and increased provision of open ground habitats in and around forests will increase available habitat. Restoration of peatland habitats is likely to benefit Natura interests. This is likely to have the strongest benefits where woodland is removed from hydrological units that could make

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
				an enhanced contribution to ecosystem function.
		EC 8.3	Sustain consistent long-term timber supplies through planting of new productive forest areas	General policy statement; makes the provision for change at a potentially large scale. Likely significant effect.
		EC 8.4	Work with the forestry sector to develop and increase the competitiveness of local timber-using businesses, with a focus on provenance and sustainability	General policy statement; concerned with capacity-building and marketing.
		EC 8.5	Encourage the use of locally-grown timber for manufacturing purposes (construction materials, furniture, and fencing)	General policy statement; concerned principally with diverting material from other uses to higher value uses as quality and capacity allows.
		EC 8.6	Promote sustainable silvicultural practices, supply chain development and markets to grow the hardwood timber sector	General policy statement; concerned with improving management practices on existing sites. Extraction of hardwood timber very unlikely to affect Natura interests.
		EC 8.7	Continue to support the use and development of machinery rings to provide specialist equipment to improve the attractiveness and viability of farm woodland	General policy statement; unlikely to result in LSE.
		EC 8.8	Promote the development of forest plans as a tool for improving timber quality and output while delivering more sustainable woodland management	Forest plans (now termed 'Land Management Plans' by FCS, reflecting the emphasis on multiple benefits and managing all land, not just the trees) are a key means of securing appropriate woodland management. Very unlikely to result in LSE as subject to consultation and approval by FCS. Where any such plan included a European site, managing this land in a manner consistent with its conservation objectives would be critical.
			Encouraging hardwood production	
		EC 10.1	Encourage landowners to bring woodland into positive management to build hardwood supply chains	General policy statement; intended to improve management of existing resources. Some expansion promoted, but not spatially specific – to be delivered in line with the strategy mapping. Likely significant effect.
		EC 10.2	Highlight the potential for hardwood timber production to provide a catalyst for environmental enhancement	
		EC 10.3	Promote planting of broadleaves for timber production to strengthen and restore landscape structure and character	
		EC 10.4	Minimise the loss of existing woodland through the rigorous application of the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal	

Aim	Objective	Priority	Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
		Biomass	
		EC 11.1 Establish and monitor regional demand for wood fibre from the biomass sector to understand effects on local markets	General policy statement; Capacity-building.
		EC 11.2 Encourage the management of existing woodlands to provide wood fuel and income for woodland owners	General policy statement; managing existing resources and unlikely to affect Natura interests.
		EC 11.3 Encourage management of existing woodland for woodfuel by highlighting the financial benefits and sharing best practice among land owners and managers	
		EC 11.4 Work with partners, stakeholders and landowners to prioritise the creation of new areas of biomass on vacant and derelict land, and in areas where farming is less viable	General policy statement; vacant and derelict land resources unlikely to affect Natura interests.
		EC 11.5 Encourage local authorities and businesses to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Renewable Heat Incentive when procuring or refurbishing buildings stock	No effect.
		EC 11.6 Support the development of a market for wood fuel by encouraging public sector organisation to take the lead on biomass boiler procurement, raising awareness among developers and householders, and liaising with regulators to providing clear guidance on the use of biomass equipment in Smoke Control Areas and Air Quality Management Areas	No effect; capacity building and awareness-raising
		EC 11.7 Support the creation of an efficient processing and distribution network for wood fuel	General policy statement; building capacity and developing processing facilities – not spatially specific, but any schemes with potential for LSE would require project-level HRA.
		EC 11.8 Facilitate engagement between the biomass sector and local planning authorities to ensure that future processing capacity can be delivered in the right locations	
		Timber transport, processing and local markets	
		EC 12.1 Support and secure existing forestry sector sites through liaison with local authorities and the Mid-Scotland Forest Industries Cluster	Creates the potential for future development, however this is not spatially specific. Similarly, development priorities intended to be delivered through the Local Development Plan process and will therefore be subject to separate HRA once location, nature and scale of development confirmed.
		EC 12.2 Survey and review industrial locations and identify appropriate sites for future forestry sector development	
		EC 12.3 Encourage the use of locally sourced timber as a building material by local businesses and stakeholder organisations.	No effect.

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
Empowering communities and enhancing quality of life	Facilitating community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership	COM 1.1	Support community involvement in woodland projects, especially through mentoring and co-ordinating delivery of activity on the ground.	No effect, general policy statements relating to community capacity-building.
		COM 1.2	Work with the sector, land managers and stakeholders - including the Central Scotland Green Network Trust - to highlight the benefits of community engagement and participation in woodland planning and development processes	
		COM 1.3	Encourage stewardship of woodlands by and for local people and support the development of the necessary skill base to deliver meaningful engagement and long-term management	
		COM 1.4	Support the delivery of training to forest and land managers to help provide the tools for positive and productive community and stakeholder engagement	
		COM 1.5	Support and facilitate capacity-building through Community Planning Partnerships and relevant community-based structures	
	Supporting community enterprise and development	COM 2.1	Support the establishment of community and social enterprises with a woodland and/or forestry dimension.	
		COM 2.2	Support the delivery of training to emerging woodland-focussed community and social enterprises.	
	Supporting opportunities for education and lifelong learning	COM 3.1	Increase awareness of the role of woodlands as an outdoor learning resource and a resource for education, training and lifelong learning	
		COM 3.2	Promote the development and delivery of woodland-based education programmes in the Clydeplan area	
		COM 3.3	Work with partners and stakeholders to help connect potential volunteers to suitable projects and programmes	
	Contributing to physical and mental health and well-being	COM 4.1	Promote the role of woodlands in providing a resource for physical activity, accessible to all parts of society close to where people live and work.	General policy statements; unlikely to have a significant effect on Natura interests – only woodland SAC (Clyde Valley Woodlands) is a National Nature Reserve and visitor pressure is carefully managed. Initiatives intended to be targeted on woodland resources close to where people live.
		COM 4.2	Prioritise woodland based projects designed to deliver physical and mental health benefits, particularly in areas with higher levels of deprivation and poorer health.	
		COM 4.3	Work to increase the appreciation and use of woodlands and forests by people from a wide range of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, and ensure that facilities and promotion	

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
			are fully inclusive.	
	Enhancing local sense of place and promoting connections to the wider environment	COM 5.1	Target management and woodland creation activity on areas of degraded environmental quality.	General policy statement; likely to improve environmental quality and will be focussed on woodlands in and around towns – therefore unlikely to result in LSE.
		COM 5.2	Promote stronger links between local cultural activities and woodland environments, identifying opportunities for woodland-based activities, where possible.	
		COM 5.3	Work with partners and stakeholders to identify opportunities for enhanced cultural provision in and around Clydeplan's woodlands.	
		COM 5.4	Work with partners, land managers and communities to ensure that new woodlands are designed to reflect and enhance local townscape and landscape character.	
Promoting and enhancing the quality of the environment	Improving the condition and resilience of biodiversity		<i>Enhancing woodland habitats</i>	Intended to improve habitat management and conservation status. Therefore unlikely to result in LSE.
		ENV1.1	Promote the positive management and expansion of International and UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority woodland habitats, including semi-natural ancient woodlands.	
		ENV1.2	Promote woodland creation to build strategic habitat network links to between core areas.	
		ENV1.3	Promote partnership working between land managers to ensure 'joined-up' management of linear woodlands.	
		ENV1.4	Work with agency partners and neighbouring authorities to deliver opportunities for cross-boundary enhancement of woodland habitat networks.	
		ENV1.5	Work with agency partners and neighbouring authorities to deliver opportunities for cross-boundary enhancement of woodland habitat networks.	
		ENV1.6	Promote the restoration of native woodland in former native, ancient, and semi-natural woodland, and encourage appropriate management of existing Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites including habitat enhancement for key native species.	
		ENV1.7	Promote the potential opportunities for woodland habitats to contribute to the greening measures contained within SRDP	
			<i>Conserving non-woodland habitats and species</i>	

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
		ENV1.8	Ensure woodland expansion does not have an adverse impact on nationally or internationally important non-woodland habitats.	
			Tackling invasive non-native species	
		ENV1.9	Support efforts to identify, manage and eradicate invasive non-native species in the Clydeplan area.	
		ENV1.10	Promote partnership working between managers to ensure coordinated delivery of efforts to tackle non-native invasive species.	
	Supporting the Central Scotland Green Network	ENV2.1	Highlight and promote the benefits of participation in CSGN, and the availability of funding, to potential private sector partners in both urban and rural environments.	General policy statement; capacity-building and partnership working.
		ENV2.2	Work with partners and stakeholder to identify the potential for cross-boundary opportunities and delivery mechanisms.	
		ENV2.3	Promote the importance of, and opportunities for, rural business and land management in providing the destinations that make the green network function.	
	Improving woodland's contribution to the conservation and management of ecosystem services and functions		Water, air and soil quality	General policy statement; does create the potential for woodland expansion, but focussed on urban areas and agricultural landscapes – therefore unlikely to result in LSE.
		ENV3.1	Promote the benefits of riparian woodland in reducing rural diffuse pollution, contributing to enhanced water quality, and reducing the risk of flooding downstream.	
		ENV3.2	Encourage the planting of trees to filter and absorb air pollutants adjacent to transport corridors and other sources of air pollution.	
		ENV3.3	Highlight the value of farm woodland and shelter belts for improving soil quality and resilience.	
			Regeneration of brownfield, vacant and derelict land	Remediation of contaminated, vacant and derelict land unlikely to have adverse effects on Natura interests. In Clyde catchment, this could help to improve water quality.
		ENV3.4	Promote woodland creation on derelict and contaminated sites as an integral part of site restoration and soil restoration.	
		ENV3.5	Work with land owners and developers to identify opportunities for woodland as part of brownfield remediation programmes.	
		ENV3.6	Work with land owners and managers to bring forward opportunities for temporary greening to improve the quality	

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
	Contributing to the conservation, enhancement and understanding of Clydeplan's valued natural heritage and historic environment		of degraded places and help to attract investment.	
			Improving townscape and landscapes	
		ENV4.1	Promote positive management of trees and woodland where they make an important contribution to the character and quality of the landscape.	General policy statement; positive management of woodland for landscape benefits unlikely to result in LSE.
		ENV4.2	Promote the role of trees and woodland in enhancing the character and quality of degraded or damaged landscapes.	Some small-scale expansion likely as a consequence, but not spatially specific or likely to be at a scale that could result in significant effects
		ENV4.3	Encourage the positive management of trees, woodlands and shelter belts in recognition of their contribution to landscape structure and distinctiveness.	
		ENV4.4	Support the ongoing restructuring of conifer woodlands to enhance landscape character and quality.	Restructuring softwood forests is a key opportunity to enhance biodiversity and landscape quality; unlikely to result in LSE as changing management of existing resources, improving design and increasing areas of open ground habitat.
			Protecting the historic environment	
		ENV4.5	Conserve and enhance the setting of historic environment assets through sensitive woodland planning and appropriate planting.	Environmental protection policies unlikely to give rise to LSE. Improved access and understanding of heritage assets unlikely to result in LSE.
		ENV4.6	Promote woodland restructuring as an opportunity to improve the setting, access to and interpretation of, heritage assets.	
		ENV4.7	Promote understanding and awareness of trees and woodlands as part of the historic environment.	Positive management of existing resources – unlikely to result in LSE.
		ENV4.8	Encourage positive management of trees and woodlands within historic gardens and designed landscapes, including succession planning and selective replanting to conserve the character and significance of assets, and improve their resilience to the effects of climate change.	
Securing resilience to climate change and adapting to its impacts	Reducing the forestry sector's emissions and contribute to mitigation measures		Increasing carbon sequestration	
		CC1.1	Expand woodland cover within the Clydeplan area as a means of increasing carbon sequestration and reducing net carbon emissions.	Implements the national priority to increase woodland cover, creating the potential for expansion – although not spatially specific. Likely significant effect.

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
		CC1.2	Work with land managers to highlight the significance of peat soils and encourage restoration where feasible and appropriate.	Restoration of peatland as a consequence of woodland restructuring likely to benefit Natura interests.
			<i>Contributing to emissions reduction</i>	
		CC1.3	Support the development of energy-efficiency measures in Clydeplan's forestry and timber sectors.	General policy statement; energy efficiency measures will not result in any changes 'on the ground' that could affect Natura interests.
		CC1.4	Promote the use and adoption of fuel-efficient plant and machinery, making links between suppliers, existing users and local contractors to highlight the benefits.	
		CC1.5	Where woodland removal in connection with development is proposed, and meets the requirements of the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal, work with developers to ensure that compensatory planting is delivered in line with the priorities and spatial guidance provided by this Strategy.	Some tree / woodland removal from Natura sites is a key management tool (e.g. removing self-seeded trees on raised bogs) but would not generally invoke the SG Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal.
		CC1.6	Ensure that reductions in woodland cover arising from restructuring and development are compensated within the Clydeplan area, wherever possible.	Delivery of compensatory planting could result in new areas of woodland. Likely significant effect.
	Adapting to the predicted effects of climate change		<i>Contributing to sustainable water and flood management</i>	
		CC2.1	Promote the role of woodland in terms of sustainable flood management, prioritising Potentially Vulnerable Areas identified by SEPA.	New floodplain and riparian woodland could have the potential for effects on Natura interests – albeit in a comparatively limited way. Likely significant effect.
		CC2.2	Increase awareness of the importance of woodlands and trees in contributing to sustainable flood management and the stabilisation of slopes.	
		CC2.3	Work in partnership with the relevant authorities to identify opportunities for better management of existing woodland or planting of new woodland to aid natural flood management at a catchment scale.	
			<i>Increasing the resilience of Clydeplan's woodlands</i>	
		CC2.4	Promote the use of Integrated Habitat Network data in parallel with this Strategy to inform land management decisions.	General policy statement; concerned with improving the management and resilience of existing woodland resources therefore unlikely to result in significant effects.
		CC2.5	Promote the role of trees and woodlands in improving urban microclimates.	

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
		CC2.6	Identify vulnerable gardens, designed landscapes and policy woodlands and promote succession planning to maintain their heritage value and significance.	
		CC2.7	Ensure forestry plantations are managed using the most sustainable option including continuous cover forestry techniques.	
		CC2.8	Promote positive and proactive management of key tree species and woodlands to improve their resilience to climate change.	

Screening the spatial component of the FWS

Introduction

- 4.8 Given the comparatively high level nature of the themes, objectives and priorities detailed in the Strategy, this HRA screening has also considered the figures provided in the Strategy which show the areas with potential for woodland expansion. The aims/themes, objectives and priorities within the Strategy are largely general statements with no locational references, making it difficult to assess the likelihood of effects on the designated sites. These maps provide a locational reference of where woodland planting is likely to occur and thus allows a more detailed assessment of the themes, objectives and actions while giving consideration the locations of the Natura sites.
- 4.9 A screening of the maps provided in the Strategy which show preferred/potential areas to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types is detailed in Table 4.3 below. The 'Woodland Types' mapping provided gives an impression of the types of new planting that is most appropriate across the region. However, it should be noted that these are not definitive, as the majority of land with potential for new woodland in the Clydeplan area could support a range of woodland types.
- 4.10 The maps in Appendix 2 show the locations of preferred and potential areas for woodland planting as identified in the woodland Strategy. These maps also show the locations in relation to the designated sites. A review has been undertaken with respect to each of the designated sites. It is acknowledged that the preferred and potential areas do not represent areas of definitive planting, but have been identified within the Strategy as areas which are suitable for planting, with respect to current land character types, taking account of sensitivities (e.g. sites designated for ecological or heritage purposes).
- 4.11 The Strategy clearly states that classification of land as 'preferred' or 'potential' does not necessarily mean that expansion will occur, and that any proposals coming forward in these areas will still be subject to detailed site-specific assessment – including Habitats Regulations Appraisal where the potential for likely significant effects is identified.
- 4.12 Natura sites are defined as being 'sensitive' and are included within this land category, ensuring that land managers are aware at first glance that any proposals within such areas are likely to be problematic and would require the highest levels of design and assessment. (It should be noted that the Strategy also highlights applicants' responsibilities under the UK Forestry Standard, which requires all forestry proposals – and decision-making – to comply with the relevant EU directives and national legislation¹¹.) Where Natura sites are a key issue, this is drawn out in the Spatial Guidance (Chapter 9 of the FWS), setting out important considerations and opportunities to add value.

Indicative potential for woodland expansion

- 4.13 The '*Indicative potential for woodland expansion*' mapping – included as Figure 4.1 below – and GIS data underpins all other mapping in the Strategy, setting the framework for the '*woodland types*' maps below and providing the basis for the more detailed spatial guidance in Chapter 9 of the Strategy.
- 4.14 Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar Wetlands are, as noted above, included within the 'sensitive' land category, highlighting the fact that there is likely to be limited scope to accommodate new woodland. Guidance provided in Chapter 9 sets out the nature of these sensitivities and discusses the potential – or lack thereof – for new woodland. This is intended to ensure that, where sensitive areas do have some potential for appropriate management or expansion (e.g. improving the condition of woodland SSSI, or enhancing nationally important designed landscapes) this is not unduly constrained.

¹¹ UK Forestry Standard; Forests and Biodiversity p.29 ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCFC001.pdf/\\$FILE/FCFC001.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCFC001.pdf/$FILE/FCFC001.pdf)); supplemented by the FC Forests and Biodiversity Guidelines ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCGL001.pdf/\\$FILE/FCGL001.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCGL001.pdf/$FILE/FCGL001.pdf))

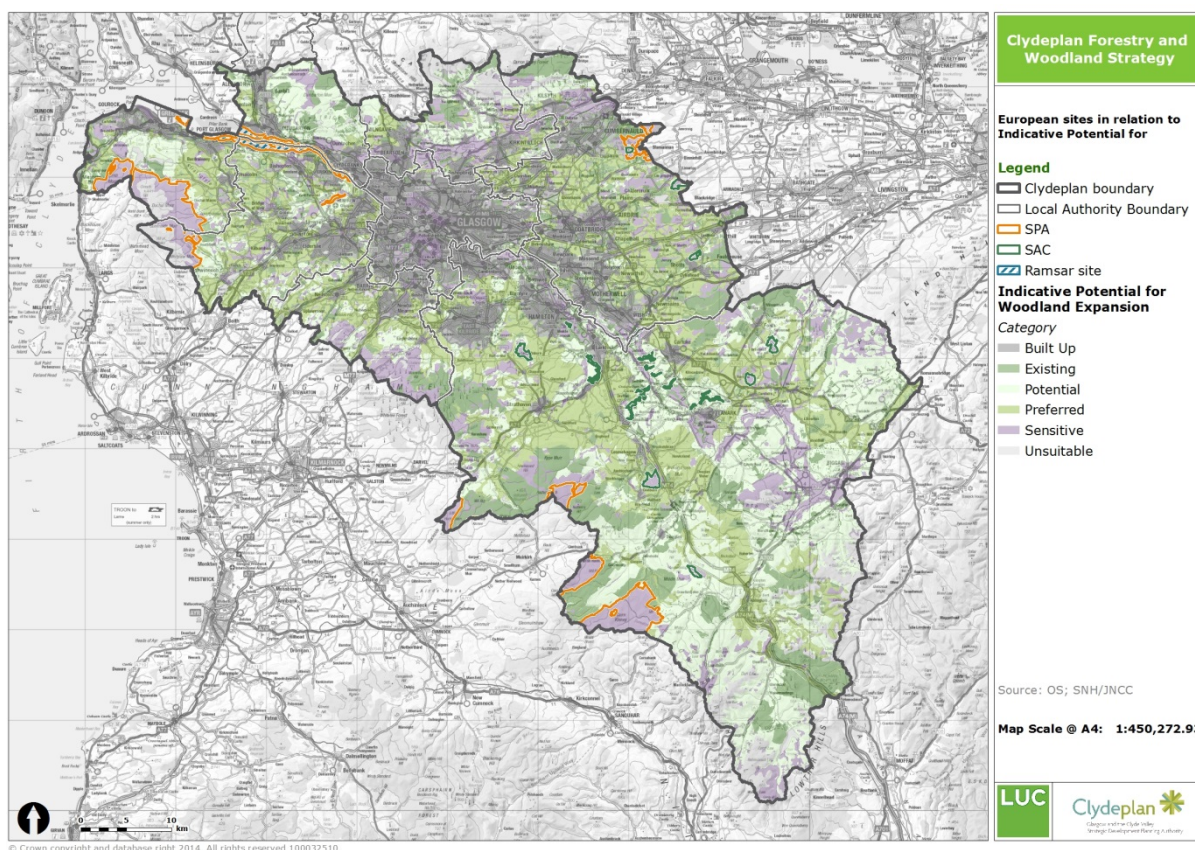


Figure 4.1: Indicative potential for woodland expansion, overlaid with European sites

- 4.15 It should be noted that this mapping is intended as a shorthand for land managers, local authorities and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) Woodland Officers in highlighting areas most suitable for new woodland – they are not intended to, nor will they, replace the existing assessment processes in place. Under the Forestry Acts, FCS acts as regulator for afforestation proposals and related forestry works, and is the competent authority for the purposes of the EIA and Habitats Regulations. It therefore requires EIA and HRA for any proposals with either the potential for significant environmental effects or likely significant effects on Natura sites. This Strategy is not, therefore, the primary decision-making framework and will not, in practice, generate any likely significant effects in its own right.

Woodland types

- 4.16 To guide woodland expansion and management taking place within the Clydeplan area, the 'indicative potential' data is then further broken down to provide advice on what types of woodland may be best suited to particular locations. Adapting the categories proposed by Scottish Government advice '*The Right Tree in the Right Place*', mapping for the following types is provided:
- Softwoods
 - Native woodland
 - Mixed woodland
 - Energy woodlands
 - Urban woodland.
- 4.17 Clearly, land can be suitable for more than one type of woodland – or indeed other land uses – therefore these maps are not intended to be prescriptive, but instead to provide land managers with the most favourable options that can help deliver the Strategy and national objectives.

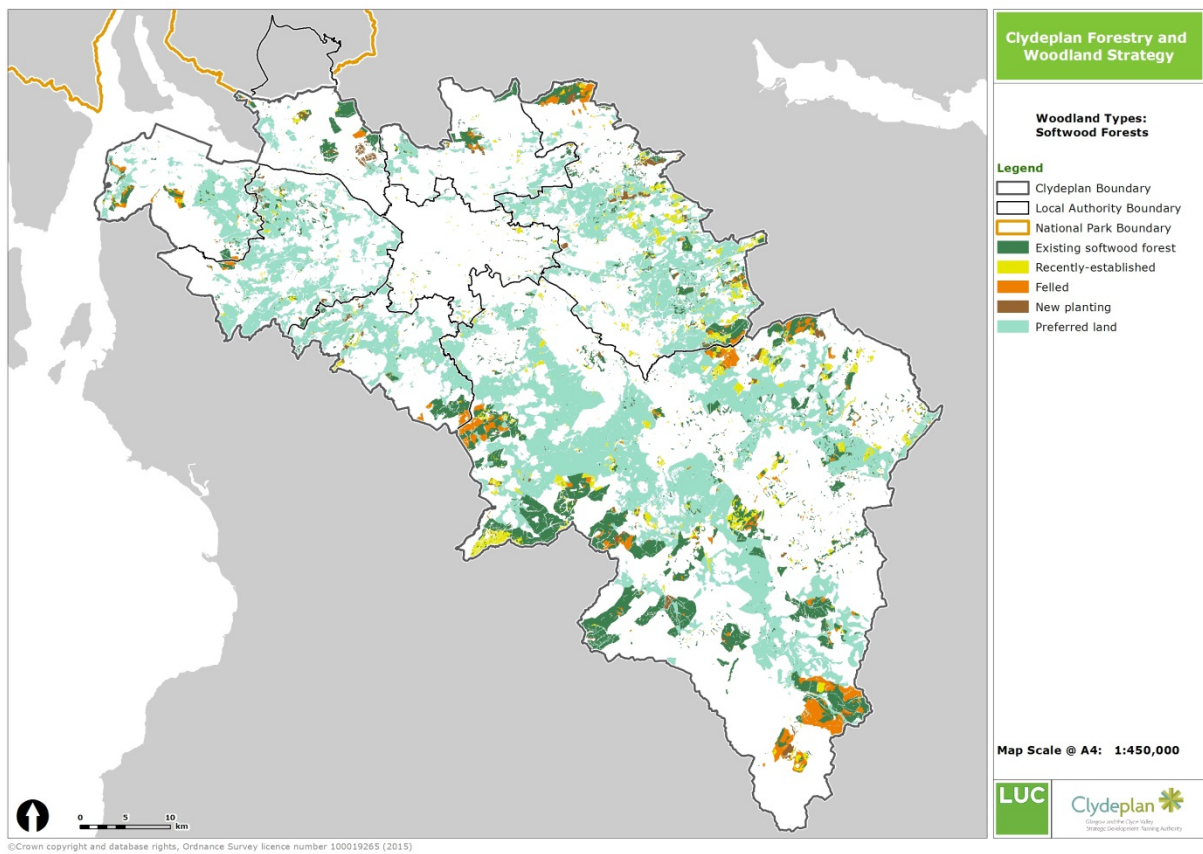


Figure 4.3: Opportunities for softwoods

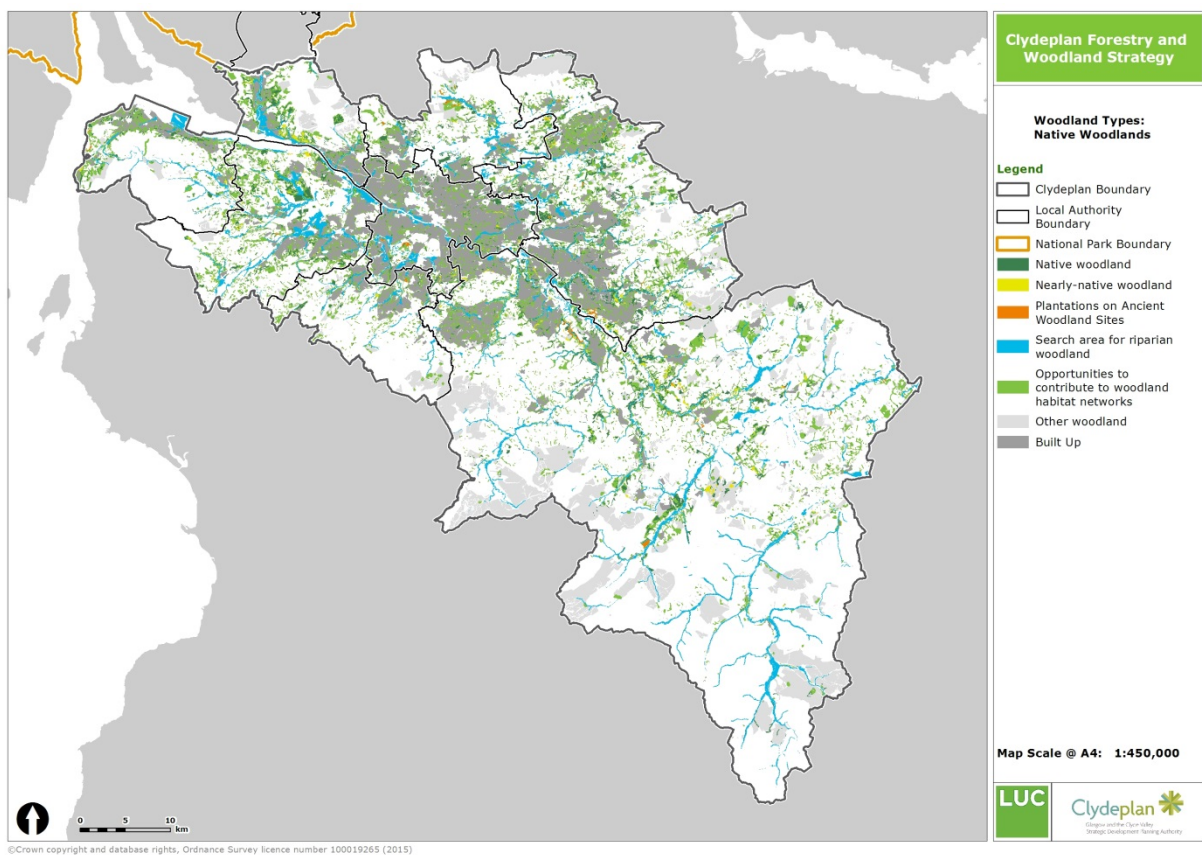


Figure 4.4: Opportunities for native woodlands

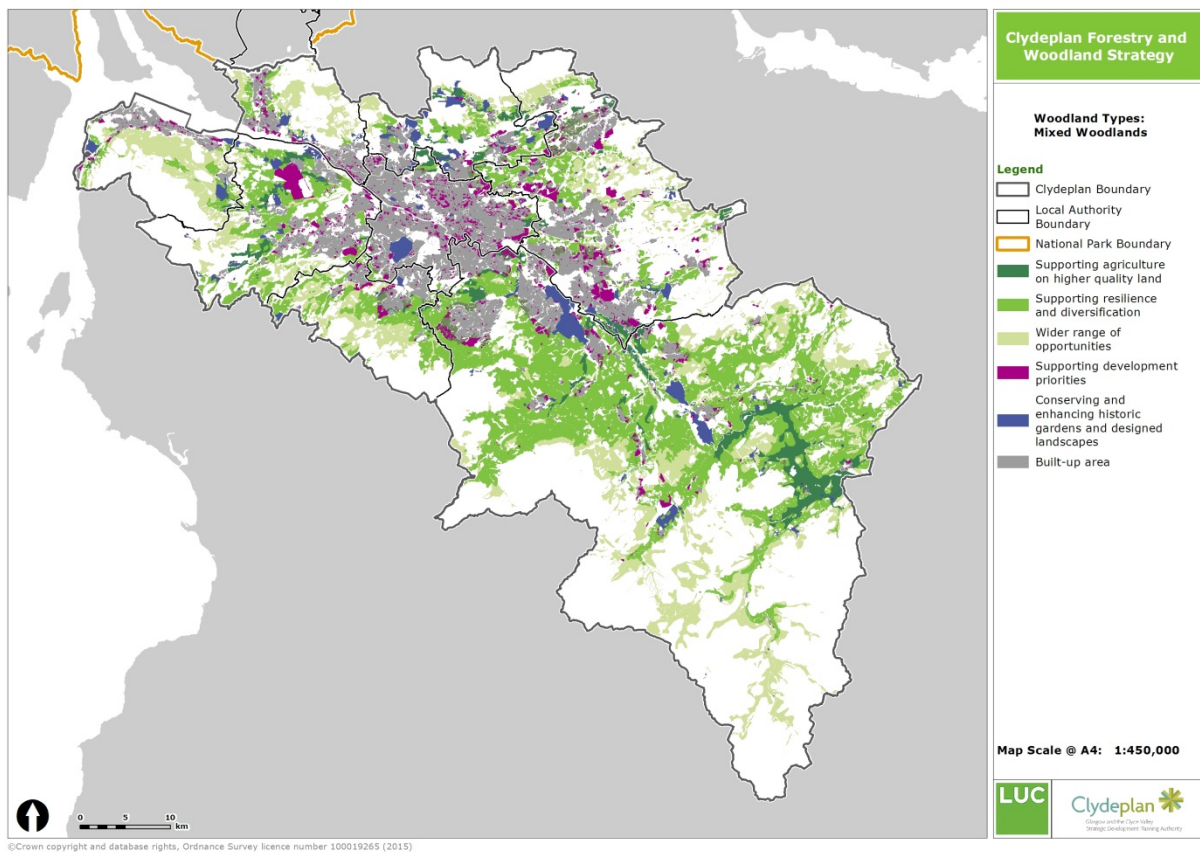


Figure 4.5: Opportunities for mixed woodland

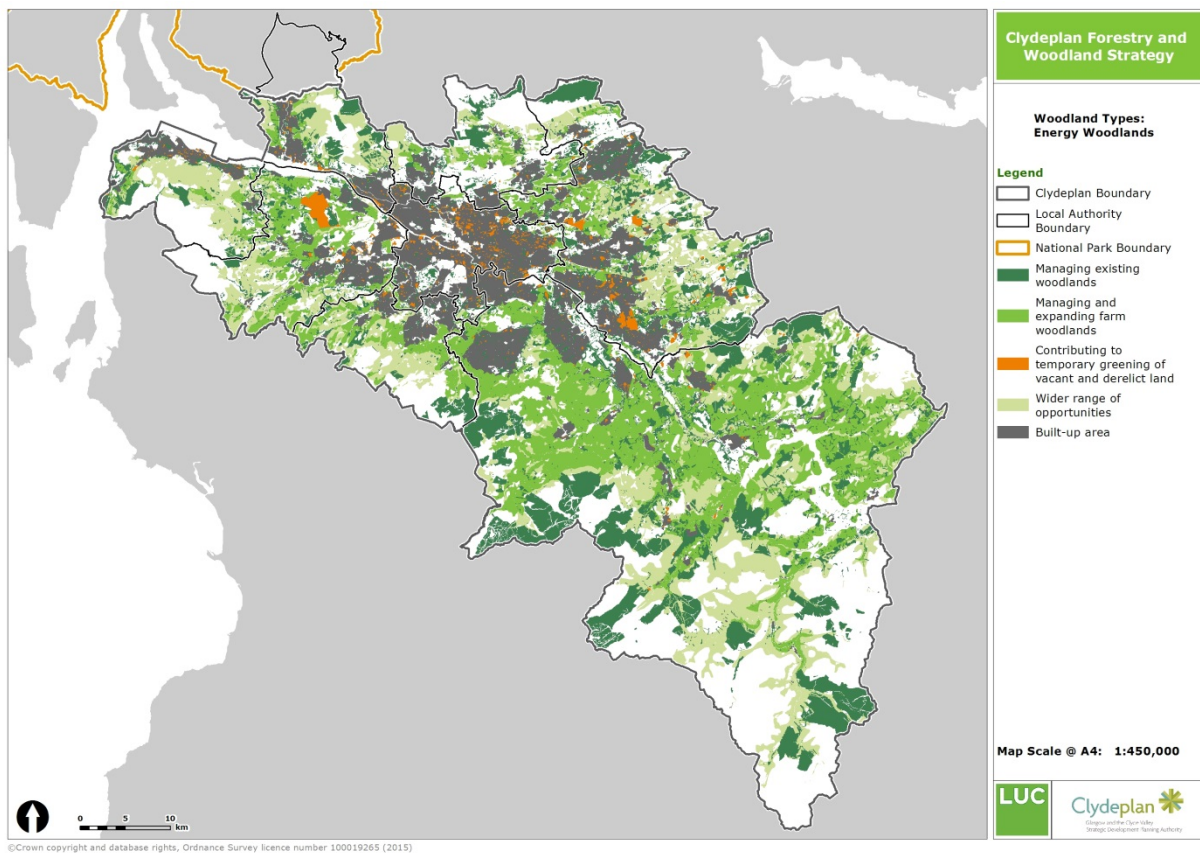


Figure 4.6: Opportunities for energy woodlands

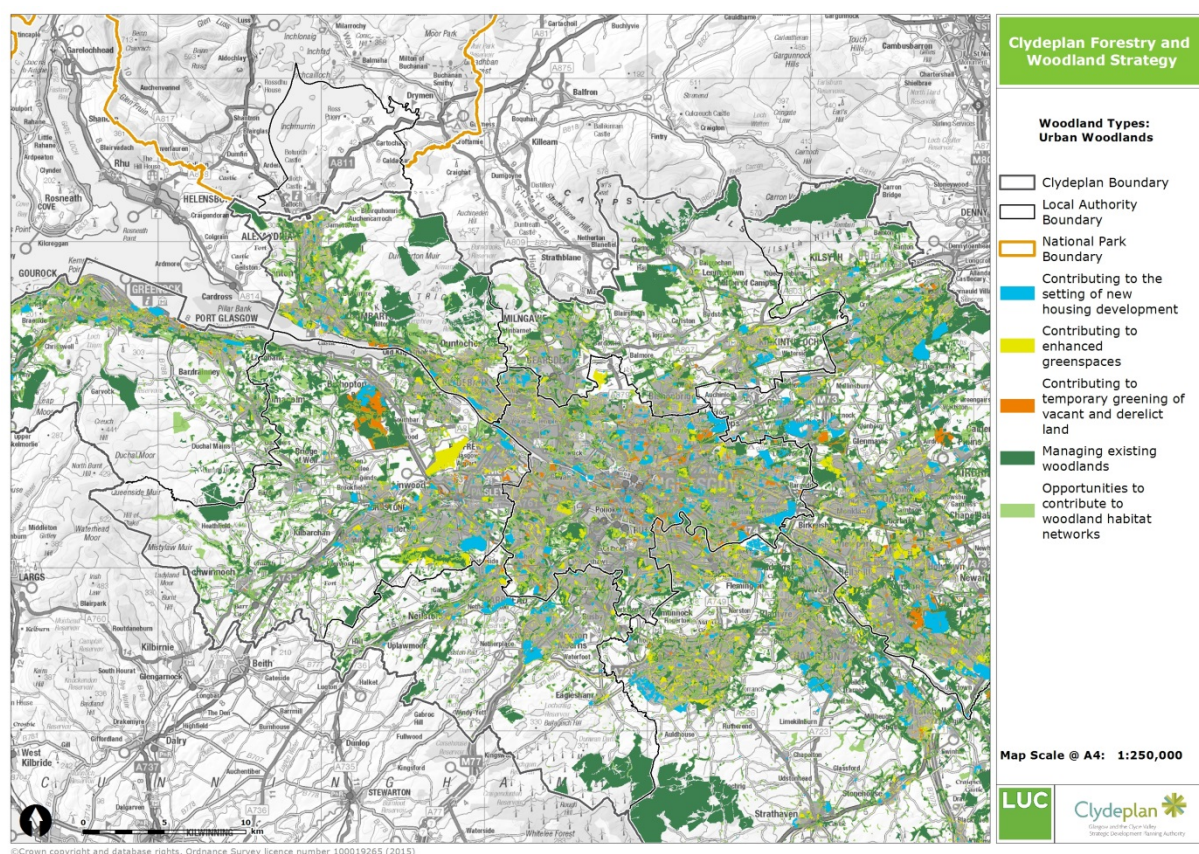


Figure 4.7: Opportunities for urban woodlands

Scenario planning

- 4.18 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process supporting the development of the Strategy took a scenario-based approach to understanding and testing the likely environmental capacity for new woodland in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. In addition to taking into account the strategic sensitivities identified in the GIS modelling process (i.e. those for which good quality data is available), additional issues – raised by the project steering group and through the consultation process – were taken into account. Taking a landscape-based framework, the region was subdivided by broad landscape type, based on an edited version of the regional LCA. The notional capacity to support woodland expansion was then calculated, based on the availability of land within each of the categories set out in Table 4.1 above, to give an ambitious – but realistic and environmentally sustainable – aspiration for expansion in each zone and across the region as a whole.

Avoiding Likely Significant Effects

- 4.19 In order to avoid likely significant effects on Natura interests in the Region – which are located within the following landscape zones, as indicated in Table 4.3 below – expansion targets were set at relatively conservative levels, particularly where planting could affect supporting habitat outside the designated area.

Table 4.3: European sites within each FWS landscape zone

Landscape zone	Natura sites	Commentary
Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waukenwae Moss SAC Clyde Valley Woods SAC (very small area) Coalburn Moss SAC 	<p>Planting in the vicinity of remnant raised bogs has the potential to alter hydrological regimes, resulting in adverse effects.</p> <p>The potential for such impacts – along with the need for HRA for</p>

Landscape zone	Natura sites	Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cranley Moss SAC Braehead Moss SAC Black Cart SPA 	planting proposals in the vicinity of Natura sites – is highlighted in the Spatial Guidance section of the FWS.
Incised River Valleys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clyde Valley Woods SAC 	
Moorland Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renfrewshire Heights SPA 	
Plateau Moorland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA West Fannyside Moss SAC Slamannan Plateau SPA Black Loch Moss SAC North Shotts Moss SAC Red Moss SAC 	
Coastline of: Farmland Moorland Hills Upland Farmland Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inner Clyde SPA and Ramsar 	Meaningful woodland expansion unlikely to occur directly adjacent to coastal margins – habitat of value to qualifying interests inherently unsuitable for trees.

Table 4.4: Notional capacity-based scenario – expansion assumptions for landscape zones containing European sites

Land class / zone	Conversion rate	Assumptions
Farmland		Total new woodland: 3,184ha over 20-year strategy period
Built-up	0%	No conversion to woodland in smaller settlements
Existing	98%	Small scale reduction from work to improve management in existing woodlands
Potential	3%	Very large area - but realistically unlikely to support new larger-scale woodland: Small-scale expansion of farm woodland on Pentland foothills and better quality land
Preferred	8%	New farm woodlands and expanding existing softwood forests
Sensitive	0.5%	Very small scale expansion of existing native woodlands to build connectivity with Clyde Valley SAC
Incised River Valleys		Total new woodland: 128ha over 20-year strategy period
Built-up	0%	Settlements outside zone.
Existing	100%	No loss of existing woodland
Potential	3%	Reinforcing native network connections to Clyde Valley woodlands
Preferred	5%	Reinforcing native network connections to Clyde Valley woodlands
Sensitive	1%	Very small-scale enhancement within Clyde Valley Woods SAC and Chatelherault Country Park
Moorland Hills		Total new woodland: 334ha over 20-year strategy

Land class / zone	Conversion rate	Assumptions
period		
Built-up	0%	Settlements outside zone.
Existing	95%	Limited losses due to restructuring of existing softwood forests
Potential	4%	Further expansion of multi-benefit woodland in Kilpatrick Hills and fringes of Renfrewshire Heights; expanding riparian networks on fringes of Kilsyth Hills
Preferred	5%	Urban fringe expansion around Port Glasgow, Inverkip, Vale of Leven
Sensitive	0%	No expansion in Renfrewshire Heights SPA or Antonine Wall WHS Buffer Zone
Plateau Moorland		Total new woodland: -208.1ha over 20-year strategy period
Built-up	0%	Settlements outside zone.
Existing	95%	Additional losses of woodland likely to Kype Muir wind farm; further losses as a consequence of restructuring
Potential	5%	Expansion of existing woodlands on upland edges
Preferred	5%	Local compensatory planting for losses; expansion of productive woodlands
Sensitive	0%	No planting in SPAs, SACs or deep peat areas

- 4.20 The expansion scenario above also takes account of the economic and land use realities likely to affect the nature, scale and rate of woodland expansion that the Region can support.

Spatial guidance

- 4.21 Detailed advice and guidance on local sensitivities and opportunities is provided for each landscape zone in Chapter 9 of the FWS. The presence of the relevant European sites and supporting habitat (where appropriate) is clearly identified for the affected zones, along with the requirement for HRA for any proposals likely to have a significant effect on the sites' qualifying interests and conservation objectives. This guidance also clearly states that large-scale woodland creation in affected areas would not be appropriate. (In any case, it should be noted that FCS and planning procedures, along with the UK Forestry Standard and accompanying guidance notes would effectively preclude any such proposals.)

Role of assumed mitigation

- 4.22 As noted above, in and of itself, the Forestry and Woodland Strategy cannot result in likely significant effects on European sites. It sets regional aspirations and priorities for the sector, but will be delivered through processes wholly beyond its control – chiefly, the consents system in place under the Forestry and Planning Acts.
- 4.23 Both the planning and forestry consents process have safeguards built in to ensure that proposals within, or within close proximity to, European Sites are identified and applicants made aware of the requirement for HRA as appropriate. Similarly, the policy frameworks against which applications under either regime are assessed (i.e. the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines; and SPP/Local Development Plans) contain appropriate safeguards to prevent adverse effects on European Sites. The safeguards put in place by the FWS – principally classifying European Sites as 'sensitive' land, and highlighting the detail both the nature of the sensitivities and providing appropriate guidance for the avoidance of adverse effects – are therefore an added layer of protection in an already robust regulatory process.

Table 4.1: Assessment of potential effects on European sites, based on proposed woodland expansion maps and spatial guidance
(* indicates cross-boundary sites)

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
Special Protection Areas				
Black Cart SPA	Whooper swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ; non-breeding	The Black Cart SPA is surrounded on three sides by 'sensitive' land (as well as being classified as such in its own right). It is enclosed on the third side by the Inchinnan Business Park, meaning that any significant woodland expansion in this area – such that could give rise to LSE – would be very unlikely.	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying interest is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of foraging areas; • Disturbance at feeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss; • Access disturbance; • Forestry operations disturbance. 	<p>The floodplain area adjacent to the Black Cart is unlikely to be suitable for extensive floodplain woodland being below the normal tidal limit – therefore the effect in terms of flood attenuation would be minimal (in addition to levels of salinity that could pose issues for trees).</p> <p>No likely significant effect</p>
Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA*	<p>Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; breeding</p> <p>Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>; breeding</p> <p>Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>; breeding</p> <p>Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; breeding</p> <p>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>; breeding</p> <p>Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; non-breeding</p>	<p>An area of 'potential' land borders the southernmost portion of the SPA, which is itself classified as 'sensitive' land.</p> <p>While some woodland creation could occur on this 'potential' land, it is likely to accompany significant restructuring of the existing woodland resource, resulting in an overall increase in open ground habitats and improved management, in line with the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard.</p>	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying interest is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of foraging areas; • Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the</p>	<p>The SPA – the bulk of which lies within East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway – is already substantially enclosed by plantation forest on its east side, within the Clydeplan area. The restructuring of existing plantations is likely to provide additional open ground habitats that could benefit the qualifying interests and provide more naturalistic woodland edge habitats, supplying additional cover for prey species.</p> <p>The inclusion of the SPA as</p>

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
			<p>qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Access disturbance; Forestry operations disturbance. 	<p>'sensitive' land means that no inappropriate planting should occur, obviating the risk for direct effects on habitat, feeding and breeding sites.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
Renfrewshire Heights SPA*	Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ; breeding	<p>The SPA is classified as 'sensitive' land, with the higher tops of Duchal Moor and Queenside Muir being classified as 'unsuitable' due to their elevation and poor, thin soils. This means that any extensive planting within the protected area would be precluded through FCS regulatory processes.</p> <p>On the lower slopes of the Renfrew Heights, while some land is classified as 'potential' that could, theoretically, include SPA supporting habitat a further substantial area is covered by 'sensitive' land due to the presence of deep peat and additional SSSI designations.</p>	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying interest is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of foraging areas; Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Access disturbance; Forestry operations disturbance. <p>Likely significant effect</p> <p><i>Effects most likely to relate to loss of foraging habitat and disturbance as a consequence of forestry operations or improved access through upgraded provision of forest roads and tracks</i></p>	<p>The inclusion of the SPA as 'sensitive' land means that no inappropriate planting should occur, obviating the risk for direct effects on habitat, feeding and breeding sites. The nature and extent of the sensitivities in the area are described in the Spatial Guidance section of the FWS, meaning that land managers should be aware of the issue – which would be highlighted at an early stage in discussions with FCS. As competent authority, FCS would require HRA of any proposals with the potential to generate LSE.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
Slamannan Plateau SPA*	Taiga bean goose <i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i> ; non-breeding	There is a small area of 'potential' land adjacent to the SPA. (The local sensitivity	The conservation status of the qualifying species is considered to be closely linked	Afforestation within the protected area would not be supported by FCS, meaning

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
		<p>moving this out of 'preferred' being the presence of SPA supporting habitat).</p> <p>The overwhelming majority of the SPA's supporting habitat – in terms of grazing areas favoured by the goose population – is located within the Falkirk Council area, and is appropriately protected in the Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy (having also been subject to HRA Screening).</p>	<p>to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of foraging areas; • Disturbance at feeding and breeding sites. <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss; • Access disturbance; • Forestry operations disturbance. 	<p>that the core goose roosting areas on areas of bog would be protected from harm. (These areas are doubly sensitive due to the presence of deep peat, providing a further regulatory block on woodland creation in this area, in line with the UK Forestry Standard.)</p> <p>Appropriate guidance is provided in Chapter 9 of the FWS, explaining the nature of the sensitivities and the requirement for project-specific HRA.</p> <p>Direct impacts on habitat or access to the site for qualifying interests is therefore unlikely.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
Special Areas of Conservation				
Black Loch Moss SAC	Active raised bog Degraded raised bog	<p>The SAC is surrounded on three sides by 'preferred' and 'potential' land, with a thin border of 'sensitive' (Caused by the presence of deep peat)</p> <p>The SAC itself is classified as 'sensitive' land.</p>	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss; • Hydrological impacts 	<p>The SAC is located in an already comparatively well-wooded part of the area. However, the intricate landform and mosaic of current land uses somewhat reduce the potential for large-scale woodland establishment in close proximity.</p> <p>The SAC designation and the presence of peat over 0.5m in depth (and its classification as 'sensitive' land) preclude afforestation due to the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard. Therefore</p>

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
			<p>– This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Black Loch Moss.</p>	<p>no direct habitat loss will occur.</p> <p>The Spatial Guidance, provided in Chapter 9 of the FWS, identifies this sensitivity and explains the requirement for site-specific assessment and, where necessary, HRA to avoid LSE.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
Braehead Moss SAC	<p>Active raised bog</p> <p>Degraded raised bog</p>	The SAC is surrounded by 'preferred' and 'potential' land.	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss; • Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Braehead Moss. 	<p>As the moss is surrounded by land with potential for expansion, there is the realistic possibility of tree planting in the vicinity of the SAC. The areas of 'sensitive' land on the periphery of the SAC – due to the presence of deep peat – further underline the fact that planting in this area would be inappropriate.</p> <p>No direct habitat loss will occur as the SAC is identified as 'sensitive' land, with appropriate advice provided in the Spatial Guidance (Chapter 9) element of the FWS, ensuring that landowners are aware of the issue – and the fact that FCS regulatory processes preclude planting in such areas. The spatial guidance also highlights the need for careful site-specific assessment to identify and rule out effects on the SAC, and the requirement for HRA.</p> <p>No likely significant effect</p>
Clyde Valley Woods SAC	Mixed woodland on base-rich	The SAC is mainly adjacent to	The conservation status of the	As some of the finest ancient

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
	soils associated with rocky slopes	'potential' land (classified as such due to the local landscape designation covering the Clyde Valley); large 'sensitive' areas relating to the New Lanark World Heritage Site and buffer zone.	<p>qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of qualifying habitat • Structure and function of the habitat <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that could affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Degradation of connectivity through inappropriate planting 	<p>woodland in central Scotland, the woods of the Clyde and Avon valleys are a valued resource for their biodiversity, cultural heritage and social value. They are protected through the planning system (national and local policies) and from removal by the requirement for FCS approval.</p> <p>The FWS clearly states that the priority for woodland expansion adjacent to the SAC is to improve habitat connectivity and boost the climate resilience of the resource.</p> <p>Similarly, landscape sensitivities in the area are such that inappropriate proposals would likely fail a number of tests and would not be permitted.</p> <p>Restructuring of the areas of plantation woodland adjacent to the SAC will prioritise conservation and enhancement of the resource. Similarly, the FWS creates levers that could help to bring under-managed woodlands in the area back into positive management – with the potential for beneficial effects on the SAC and wider habitat networks.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
Coalburn Moss SAC	Active raised bog Degraded raised bog	The SAC is mainly surrounded by 'preferred' land, with some small areas of 'sensitive' due	The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked	The SAC lies largely within the National Forest Estate, managed by FCS on behalf of

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
		to the presence of deep peat.	<p>to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Coalburn Moss. 	<p>Scottish Ministers. Given the national priority given to the identification, conservation and enhancement of peatland habitats it is extremely unlikely that management decisions would do anything other than reflect this.</p> <p>The designation, and the presence of deep peat, precludes afforestation due to the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard.</p> <p>Again, the independence of the bog from the local water table means that small-scale planting in the local area would be unlikely to result in significant adverse hydrological effects. Nevertheless, the presence of this sensitivity is highlighted in Chapter 9 of the FWS, along with the requirement for site-specific assessment and, where appropriate, HRA to avoid LSE.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
Cranley Moss SAC	Active raised bog Degraded raised bog	The SAC is mainly surrounded by 'preferred' land, with some small areas of 'sensitive' due to the presence of deep peat.	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the</p>	<p>The SAC contains small areas of woodland in the form of conifer shelterbelts and self-seeded native trees and scrub. The designation, and the presence of deep peat, precludes afforestation due to the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard.</p> <p>Removal of woodland from the bog surface is identified as a priority in the FWS, and the</p>

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
			<p>qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Cranley Moss. 	<p>sensitivity of the site – and the need for site-specific assessment – is highlighted in Chapter 9 of the FWS.</p> <p>The SAC is also ringed on three sides by tributaries of the Mouse Water and therefore any planting in the vicinity would be in a separate hydrological unit (notwithstanding the relative independence of the raised bog from the surrounding water table).</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
North Shotts Moss SAC	Active raised bog Degraded raised bog	The SAC is surrounded by a thin strip of 'sensitive' land on its northern and eastern circuit, and to the south by the edge of Shotts.	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as 	<p>The SAC lies between the town of Shotts and Calderhead Road, in an area of intensive former mineral working.</p> <p>The designation, and the presence of deep peat, precludes afforestation due to the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard. This will prevent direct adverse effects on the habitat.</p> <p>Planting on 'preferred' land on the north side of the road is unlikely to adversely affect the bog, being in a different hydrological unit – although the proximity to further deep peat deposits will restrict the nature and scale of woodland that could be appropriate.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
			North Shotts Moss.	
Red Moss SAC	Active raised bog	The SAC is bordered on its northern edge by an area of 'sensitive' land (deep peat), and on its southern edge by 'potential' land.	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss; • Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Red Moss. <p>Likely significant effect.</p>	<p>The designation, and the presence of deep peat, precludes afforestation due to the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard.</p> <p>Planting in the 'potential' area to the southwest of the SAC could have the potential to alter local hydrology, but as the bog is principally rainwater-fed this is unlikely to result in significant effects. Nevertheless, this sensitivity is explained in the spatial guidance provided by Chapter 9 of the FWS, highlighting the need for site-specific assessment and the need for HRA where appropriate.</p> <p>No likely significant effects.</p>
Waukenwae Moss SAC	Active raised bog Degraded raised bog	The majority of the SAC is surrounded by 'preferred' and 'potential' land.	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry</p>	<p>The designation, and the presence of deep peat, precludes afforestation due to the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard.</p> <p>Planting in the upslope area of 'preferred' land could have an effect on the local hydrological regime, potentially reducing any surface water flows. This sensitivity is highlighted in</p>

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
			<p>activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as Waukenwae Moss. 	<p>Chapter 9 of the FWS, indicating the requirement for site-specific assessment and HRA.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
West Fannyside Moss SAC	Blanket bog	The SAC is almost entirely enclosed by 'sensitive' land as a consequence of the presence of the Slamannan Plateau SPA, the Palacerigg Country Park and areas of deep peat	<p>The conservation status of the qualifying habitats is considered to be closely linked to and dependent on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality/quantity <p>Listed below are the most likely impacts resulting from woodland and forestry activities that can affect the qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss; Hydrological impacts – This includes impacts within the upstream and downstream catchments. Impacts could extend substantial distances if planting is carried out in the same hydrological unit as 	<p>The designation, and the presence of deep peat, precludes afforestation due to the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard.</p> <p>The bog sits above Fannyside Loch, and any planting in the immediate vicinity (if permitted) would likely have no substantive effect on the hydrological system, being downslope from the bog.</p> <p>In practice, as the site is both classified as, and ringed by 'sensitive' land (including the Slamannan Plateau SPA), planting in the immediate area is highly unlikely.</p> <p>No significant effect.</p>

Site name and designation	Qualifying interests	Location of 'Preferred' and 'Potential' land	Potential effects on qualifying interests from forestry and woodland activities	Potential effects
			West Fannyside Moss.	

Re-screening objectives / priorities to take account of spatial guidance

- 4.24 When read in conjunction with the guidance provided by the Strategy mapping and spatial guidance, it is concluded that **no aspect of the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland strategy would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.** As such, **no appropriate assessment is required.**

Table 1.2: Re-screening aims / objectives / priorities of the Clydeplan FWS.

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
Expanding Clydeplan's woodland resource and improving its management	Encourage the creation of well-designed woodland of an appropriate nature, scale and composition to deliver the Strategy's priorities.	EM 1.1	Support the delivery of approximately 6,000ha of new woodlands over the 20-year lifespan of the Strategy.	<p>The aspiration for woodland expansion will be delivered in line with the spatial and policy guidance provided in Section 8 of the Strategy – meaning that proposals will be steered towards appropriate areas of the region, and will not exceed sustainable environmental limits.</p> <p>The nature, scale and location of the aspirations for expansion explicitly take into account the need to consider Natura-related sensitivities and avoid adverse effects.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
		EM 1.2	Promote a strong multi-benefit approach to woodland planning, design and management in the Clydeplan area.	
		EM 1.3	Ensure that proposals for woodland creation support the aims and objectives of the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy.	
Building and supporting the forest and woodland economy	Contributing to a healthy wood production and processing sector	EC 8.3	<i>Maintaining and increasing timber production</i>	<p>The Strategy explicitly directs proposals for new productive woodlands toward the 'preferred' areas established in the GIS modelling process (and highlighted on the 'Softwoods' map). Although new productive woodland could readily be accommodated in the 'preferred' and 'potential' areas of the Farmland zone in particular, the presence of Natura sensitivities is highlighted, and clear guidance provided stating that only small-scale enhancement should be considered in these areas.</p> <p>The spatial guidance chapter of the FWS highlights Natura sensitivities where appropriate and makes explicit the nature, scale and location of new woodland where appropriate – as well as stressing the importance of site-specific assessment and HRA where required.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
			Sustain consistent long-term timber supplies through planting of new productive forest areas	

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
			Encouraging hardwood production	
		EC 10.1	Encourage landowners to bring woodland into positive management to build hardwood supply chains	<p>The Strategy explicitly directs proposals for new productive woodlands toward the 'preferred' areas established in the GIS modelling process – although areas suitable for productive hardwoods are not specifically identified.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the management of existing policy and native woodlands will provide the bulk of this material – which will only ever be a very small proportion of the region's timber output. The slower-growing nature of broadleaves also means that return on investment is heavily delayed, therefore land managers investing in hardwoods are likely to expend considerable effort in securing appropriate sites – none of which should affect Natura interests given their marginal locations in this region, whereas high quality hardwoods require better quality soils and less exposed sites.</p> <p>The spatial guidance chapter of the FWS highlights Natura sensitivities where appropriate and makes explicit the nature, scale and location of new woodland where appropriate – as well as stressing the importance of site-specific assessment and HRA where required.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
		EC 10.2	Highlight the potential for hardwood timber production to provide a catalyst for environmental enhancement	
		EC 10.3	Promote planting of broadleaves for timber production to strengthen and restore landscape structure and character	
		EC 10.4	Minimise the loss of existing woodland through the rigorous application of the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal	
Securing resilience to climate change and adapting to its impacts	Reducing the forestry sector's emissions and contribute to mitigation measures		Increasing carbon sequestration	
		CC1.1	Expand woodland cover within the Clydeplan area as a means of increasing carbon sequestration and reducing net carbon emissions.	<p>Implements the national priority to increase woodland cover, creating the potential for expansion – although not spatially specific.</p> <p>The FWS GIS mapping and spatial guidance is intended to interpret these targets at the regional and local level, ensuring that new woodland is directed to the most sustainable locations – avoiding sensitive areas and adding value where appropriate. All Natura sites are clearly identified as 'sensitive' land, and appropriate guidance provided to ensure that land managers are steered away from these</p>

Aim	Objective	Priority		Reason for exclusion from screening process / identification of LSE?
				<p>areas.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

Conclusion

- 4.25 On the basis of the screening undertaken above, it is concluded that no aspect of the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site due to the protections in place through the spatial guidance and mapping. As such, no appropriate assessment is required.
- 4.26 The mitigation provided by the mapping and spatial guidance on the likely significant effects identified in Table 4.2 are provided in a **Error! Reference source not found.** above – resulting in no likely significant effects.
- 4.27 It should again be noted that, although the Strategy is intended to provide advice and guidance on the location, nature and scale of appropriate new woodlands, it is the Forestry Commission Scotland grant assessment and EIA processes – and the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard – that are the key regulatory and policy tests for planting and management proposals. Consideration of Natura issues and other environmental sensitivities are an intrinsic part of this regulatory process, and the Strategy supplements – rather than replaces – this regulatory framework.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 This HRA screening concludes that the Strategy will not have any significant effects on the following sites and, as no 'de minimis' effects are identified, no in-combination effects need to be assessed and no mitigation measures need be provided.



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